

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 01909 201300Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 W
-----201301Z 016958 /43
R 201101Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1837

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FOR NEA ONLY, DEPUTY ASST SECRETARY DUBS

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OVIP, AF (OMAR, DR ABDULLAH)
SUBJ: VISIT TO U.S. BY AFGHAN MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH,
DR ABDULLAH OMAR

REF: KABUL 1901

1. WHILE REFTTEL CONTAINS THE ESSENTIAL DETAILS OF DR OMAR'S
TRIP TO THE U.S., MAY 10-26, I WANT TO ADD A FURTHER
COMMENT TO YOU ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE WHICH I ATTACH
THE VISIT.

2. AS YOU WILL RECALL, OMAR BECAME MINISTER OF PUBLIC
HEALTH ONLY LAST YEAR, AFTER SEVERAL YEARS WITH THE
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION. HE HAS JUST BEEN REAPPOINTED
AS THE FIRST PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTER UNDER THE NEW
REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTION. HE HAS QUICKLY PROCEEDED TO
ADD NEW LIFE, VITALITY AND DIRECTION TO A MINISTRY WHICH
WAS IN REAL NEED OF SUCH LEADERSHIP. ALL OF US HERE
HAVE THE GREATEST RESPECT FOR HIS ABILITIES. OMAR IS,
MOREOVER, A PERSONABLE, ATTRACTIVE FIGURE. WITH THIS
MIXTURE OF QUALITIES, HE MAKES A VERY IMPRESSIVE --
AND EFFECTIVE -- REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS GOVERNMENT.

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3. BECAUSE OMAR IS IMPRESSIVE, BUT, MORE IMPORTANT,
BECAUSE HE WILL BE THE HIGHEST RANKING AFGHAN OFFICIAL
TO VISIT THE US SINCE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TOOK
OFFICE, I FEEL WE SHOULD TRY TO GET HIM AT LEAST A
COURTESY CALL ON THE SECRETARY OF HEW. PERHAPS
SECRETARY CALIFANO COULD EVEN BE PERSUADED TO GIVE
A LUNCHEON IN HIS HONOR. IN THE DEPARTMENT, WE HAVE

SUGGESTED THAT AID/W CARRY THE BALL, BUT IF YOU FEEL
OMAR SHOULD MAKE HIGH-LEVEL COURTESY CALLS, E.G., ON
ROY ATHERTON OR HIGHER, THEN I WOULD DEFER TO YOUR
JUDGEMENT. THE IMPORTANT THING IS, I FEEL, TO GET
OMAR THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE EXPOSURE TO THE NEW
ADMINISTRATION, PARTICULARLY IN THE HEALTH AND
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AREAS.
ELIOT

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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